

2017 Accessibility Features

During state assessments for STAAR, STAAR Spanish, and TELPAS, certain accessibility features may be provided to students based on their needs. In general, these procedures and materials are available to any student who regularly benefits from the use of these procedures or materials during instruction. A student cannot be required to use them during testing and there is no need to document their use on students' answer documents. Coordinators are responsible for ensuring that test administrators understand the proper implementation of these procedures and use of these materials. In some cases, a student may need to complete the test in a separate setting in order to eliminate distractions to other students and to ensure that the security and confidentiality of the test are maintained.

A list of the accessibility features is provided below.

- signing test administration directions for a student who is deaf or hard of hearing
- translating test administration directions into the native language of an English language learner
- allowing a student to use a bilingual dictionary (word-to-word translations; no definitions or examples) on mathematics, science, and social studies assessments
- allowing a student to read the test aloud to facilitate comprehension (includes use of PVC pipe or recording device)
- reading aloud or signing the expository or persuasive writing prompt to any student who requests this assistance
- providing reading assistance on the grade 3 mathematics test for any student:
 - The test administrator may read a word, phrase, or sentence in a test question or answer choice to any grade 3 student but only when asked to do so by the individual student.
 - If a student needs the entire test read aloud, the eligibility criteria for an oral administration must be met.
- making the following assistive tools available:
 - scratch paper (or any medium that can be erased or destroyed)
 - color overlays and the color settings for online tests
 - blank place markers and the guideline tool for online tests
 - magnifying devices and the zoom feature for online tests
 - highlighters, colored pencils, or crayons
- giving permission for a student to use tools to minimize distractions or to help maintain focus (e.g., stress ball, noise-reducing headphones, or instrumental music [no lyrics] played through an individual student's headphones or ear buds)
- allowing individual and small-group administrations
- reminding students to stay on task